

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 2-4, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20-21, 26, 28-29, 33-36, 39, 42, and 44-46 are hereby amended.

Claims 1, 23-25, and 50-51 are canceled.

Claims 2-22, 26-49, and 52-56 are pending in the application.

Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 11, 13, 15, 36, 53, 55, and 56 are objected to as containing improper Markush groupings. Applicants respectfully submit that the original language of claims 2, 15, 36, 53, 55, and 56 properly recites alternative limitations using the term “or.” More specifically, Applicants use the term “or” to recite the alternative limitations rather than use of a Markush group which requires the term “and.” Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 11 and 13 to recite the term “or” rather than “and.”

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 6, 7, and 56 and the indication that claims 24-31, 33, 36, 39-41, and 51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note that claims 24-31, 33, 36, 39-41, and 51 were first indicated as allowable in the Office Action dated June 21, 2006, and Applicants have amended the claims as follows using the language of original claim 1 to take the allowable subject matter as so indicated:

Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form and amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 24 and 25, and thus claims 21-22 are now allowable.

Claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form, and thus claims 26 and 27 are now allowable.

Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form and is now allowable.

Claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form, and thus claims 29 – 31 are now allowable.

Claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form and is now allowable.

Claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form and is now allowable.

Claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form, and thus claims 39 – 41 are now allowable.

Claim 46 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 51, and thus claims 46-49 and 52-55 are now allowable.

All remaining claims have either been canceled or amended to depend from an allowable claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

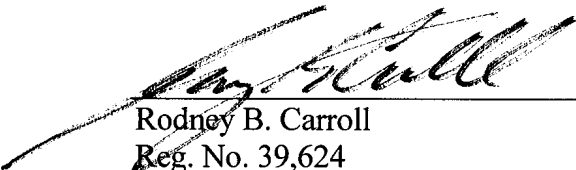
Consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application, and withdrawal of the rejections and objections are respectfully requested by Applicants. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Advisory Action dated March 15, 2007 has been fully addressed. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account Number 50-1515 of Conley Rose, P.C., Texas. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date:

4-2-07


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